

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Previously Presented) A value document, comprising a value document substrate and at least three different feature substances for checking the value document, wherein the value document of a series has a first feature substance, and second and third feature substances are provided on the value document substrate in a printing ink jointly, the second feature substance comprising a luminescent substance and the third feature substance comprising a material absorbent in a selected spectral range, wherein an upgrade of the value document of the series in addition to or instead of the first feature substance comprises a fourth feature substance.
2. (Previously Presented) The value document according to claim 1, wherein the first and/or fourth feature substance is/are incorporated into the volume of the substrate of the value document.
3. (Previously Presented) The value document according to claim 2, wherein the first and/or fourth feature substance is/are distributed substantially uniformly within the volume of the value document substrate.
4. (Previously Presented) The value document according to claim 1, wherein the third feature substance absorbs in the infrared spectral range.
5. (Previously Presented) The value document according to claim 4, wherein the third feature substance is substantially colorless or has only weak inherent color in the visible spectral range.
6. (Previously Presented) The value document according to claim 4, wherein the third feature substance absorbs significantly in the spectral range above about 1.2 μm .
7. (Previously Presented) The value document according to claim 4, wherein the third feature substance has no significant absorption at a wavelength of about 0.8 μm .

8. (Previously Presented) The value document according to claim 1, wherein the third feature substance comprises a doped semiconductor material or a metal oxide.

9. (Previously Presented) The value document according to claim 4, wherein the third feature substance is present in the printing ink in particle form with an average particle size smaller than 50 nm.

10. (Cancelled).

11. (Cancelled).

12. (Previously Presented) The value document according to claim 1, wherein the first and/or fourth feature substance is formed either or both by a luminescent substance and a mixture of luminescent substances.

13. (Previously Presented) The value document according to claim 1, wherein at least one of the feature substances is formed on the basis of a host lattice doped with rare earth elements.

14. (Previously Presented) The value document according to claim 4, wherein the first and/or fourth feature substance is formed by a luminescent substance which emits in the absorption range of the third feature substance.

15. (Previously Presented) The value document according to claim 1, wherein the first and/or fourth feature substance is printed on the value document substrate.

16. (Previously Presented) The value document according to claim 1, wherein the first and/or fourth feature substance is applied to or incorporated in the value document substrate in the form of a coding.

17. (Previously Presented) The value document according to claim 1, wherein the second and third feature substances are printed on the value document substrate in the form of a coding.

18. (Previously Presented) The value document according to claim 16, wherein at least one coding extends over a predominant part of a surface of the value document.

19. (Previously Presented) The value document according to claim 16, wherein at least one coding is a bar code.

20. (Previously Presented) The value document according to claim 16, wherein at least one coding represents information about the value document.

21. (Previously Presented) The value document according to claim 1, wherein the value document substrate comprises one or both of a printed or unprinted cotton paper and a paper consisting of a cotton/synthetic fiber mixture.

22. (Previously Presented) The value document according to claim 1, wherein the value document substrate comprises a printed or unprinted plastic film.

23. (Previously Presented) The value document according to claim 1, wherein the value document has a further printed layer which partly or completely covers the value document areas provided with the second and third feature substances.

24. (Previously Presented) The value document according to claim 23, wherein the further printed layer is opaque in the visible spectral range and is transparent or translucent in the emission range of at least one of the second feature substance and the absorption range of the third feature substance.

25. (Currently Amended) A method for producing a value document ~~according to claim 4, comprising:~~

providing a value document having a value document substrate and at least three different feature substances for checking the value document, the value document of a series having a first feature substance, the second feature substance including a luminescent substance and the third feature substance including a material absorbent in a selected spectral range, wherein an upgrade of the value document of

the series in addition to or instead of the first feature substance comprises a fourth feature substance; and

applying the second and third feature substances to the value document substrate in a printing ink jointly.

26. (Previously Presented) The production method according to claim 25, wherein at least one of the first and fourth feature substance is incorporated into the volume of the substrate of the value document.

27. (Currently Amended) A method for checking or processing a value document ~~according to claim 1~~, comprising:

providing a value document having a value document substrate and at least three different feature substances for checking the value document, the value document of a series having a first feature substance, the second feature substance including a luminescent substance and the third feature substance including a material absorbent in a selected spectral range, wherein an upgrade of the value document of the series in addition to or instead of the first feature substance comprises a fourth feature substance; and

checking the authenticity of the value document and carrying out a value recognition of the document by using at least one characteristic property of at least one of the first, second and fourth feature substance for checking the authenticity of the value document, and the absorption of the third feature substance for the value recognition of the value document, wherein the presence of the fourth feature substance indicates the value document to be an upgrade of the series.

28. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 27, including using at least one characteristic property of the first feature substance for checking the authenticity of the value document, and the absorption of the third feature substance for the value recognition of the value document, by a user of a first user group.

29. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 28, wherein at least one characteristic property of the second feature substance is used for checking the authenticity of the value document, and the absorption of the third feature substance for the value

recognition of the value document, by a user of a second user group.

30. (Cancelled).

31. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 27 or 28, wherein, for value recognition, at least a partial area of the value document is irradiated with radiation from the absorption range of the third feature substance, the absorption of the third feature substance is determined in the partial area at a wavelength from the irradiation range, and the value recognition is carried out on the basis of the determined absorption.

32. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 31, wherein the irradiation is effected in the infrared spectral range.

33. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 31, wherein the determination of the absorption is performed in spatially resolved fashion.

34. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 27 or 28, wherein, for value recognition, at least a partial area of the value document is irradiated with radiation from the excitation range of the luminescent first and/or fourth feature substance, the emission of the first and/or fourth feature substance is determined at a wavelength from the absorption range of the third feature substance, and the value recognition is carried out on the basis of the determined emission.

35. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 34, wherein the irradiation is effected in the infrared spectral range.

36. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 34, wherein the determination of the emission is performed in spatially resolved fashion.

37. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 34, wherein the emission of at least one of the first and fourth feature substance is determined on opposite sides of the value document.

38. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 29, wherein, for the authenticity check by a user of the second user group, the second feature substance is irradiated with radiation from its excitation range, the emission is determined at at least one wavelength from the emission range of the second feature substance, and the check of authenticity is carried out on the basis of the determined emission.

39. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 38, wherein the second feature substance is irradiated with at least one of visible and infrared radiation, and its emission is determined in the infrared spectral range.

40. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 31, wherein the irradiation is performed with a light-emitting diode or laser diode.

41. (Previously Presented) The value document according to claim 6, wherein the spectral range is from about 1.5 μm to 2.2 μm .

42. (Previously Presented) The value document according to claim 20, wherein the information is in encrypted form.

43. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 37, wherein the value recognition is performed on the basis of a comparison of the emission determined on opposite sides.